

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

DATE: Friday, May 22, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: IN-PERSON IN CARPINTERIA & TELECONFERENCE

Item	1A	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions –Chair, Eric Friedman
Minutes/ Actions:	Members Present: • Roy Lee (County of Santa Barbara) • Joann Hartman (County of Santa Barbara – Alternate) • Vianey Lopez (County of Ventura) • Matt LaVere (County of Ventura) – Remote participation per Government Code § 54953.8.3(c)(4) “[t]ravel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.” • Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara) • Jennifer Smith (City of Goleta - Alternate) - Remote • Julie Mayer (City of Carpinteria) • Doug Halter (City of Ventura) - Remote • Gabe Teran, (City of Oxnard) • Steven Gama (City of Port Hueneme) Members Not Present: • Laura Capps (County of Santa Barbara) • James Kyriaco (City of Goleta)	
Item	1B - C	Approval of Administrative Items B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting. C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on May 22, 2026.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None. Item 1B and 1C: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Halter / Second by Teran. Members Hartmann and Lee abstained. Roll call vote 8 to 0 approved.	

Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None.	

Item	3	Presentation on Harbor Dredging, Federal Funding, and Beach Nourishment Receive presentations from Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Island harbors on the status of harbor dredging, beach nourishment, and federal
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	funding. Executive Director Beyeler indicated that all three harbors in the BEACON Litoral Cell (Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Island) are interdependent with local beaches immediately down coast that are fed through beneficial bypass. Federal funding for dredging was zeroed out in the President's proposed FY27–28 budget. Mr. Beyeler described this as an unprecedented threat to federal dredging funding and noted the critical advocacy role that BEACON and member agencies have played in securing reinstatement of funds. Presentations were made by Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director and Harbor Master Santa Barbara Harbor; John Higgins, Harbor Master, Ventura Harbor; and Michael Tripp, Director, Channel Island Harbor. The three presentations are posted on the BEACON Website. Board Members Comments: • Member Meyer asked if there is a location where the public can find more information about the CHNMS.
Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director Marc Beyeler introduced presenter Paul Michel, Senior Advisor, NOAA West Coast Regional Office, Monterey, CA, as well as Carolina Behe, Acting Superintendent, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Paul Michel made a presentation of an overview and status update on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS), noting he had previously presented to the BEACON Board in 2022. The presentation is available on the BEACON Website. Board Members Comments: • Member Hartman asked about the origins of the Santa Barbara sand trap. • Mr. Wiltshire responded that West Beach has been accreting since the 1920s due to the harbor design; sand naturally wraps around the breakwater and accumulates in the Sand Trap, but this area is outside the Army Corps' annual dredging scope. • Member Hartman asked whether dredged sand is slurried or trucked. • Michael Tripp responded that for Channel Islands Harbor, the scale of their project (2.4M cubic yards in a few months) requires a suction dredge piping material as slurry; trucking would not be feasible at that volume. • Member Gama noted that the USCOE cannot advocate for projects, hence the importance of BEACON and other agency advocacy efforts. • The presenters explained that funding for dredging amounts to a mix of direct appropriations by elected officials and annual work plan allocations. The uncertainty of year-to-year funding is a continuing challenge, even for congressionally authorized projects.

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	Chair Friedman closed the item by recognizing BEACON's value as a convener across the three harbors, noting that the collective voice was more effective in obtaining U.S. Senate support than individual efforts would have been. BEACON committed to continued partnerships on future advocacy. Public Comments: - None.
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Item	4A	Appoint Brian Brennan as Special Projects Volunteer Recommended Action: Receive a Staff Report on Special Projects Staff; and Adopt Resolution 2026-1, appointing Brian Brennan as Special Projects Volunteer Staff for a period up to June 30, 2027 (Exhibit I).
Minutes/ Actions:		Executive Director Beyeler recommended the reappointment of Brian Brennan as Special Projects Volunteer Staff for a period up to June 30, 2027 (Resolution 2026-1). Mr. Beyeler described Brennan's extensive experience of lobbying in Sacramento and on local projects in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. This is Mr. Brennan's third or fourth year in this role. Board Members Comments: Chair Friedman expressed personal appreciation for Mr. Brennan's long-standing contributions. Mr. Brennan noted he recently returned from Portugal and plans to share observations on how other countries approach coastline management. Public Comments: - None. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 as set forth in the Agenda. Moved by Teran / Second by Lopez. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved 9 votes present.

Item	4B	Receive a Staff Report on Projects SAC Meeting Sand Summit Meeting
Minutes/ Actions:		Executive Director Beyeler provided a verbal report of the recent SAC meeting and Sand Summit meeting: SAC Meeting The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) held its annual meeting in the Carpinteria City Hall chambers. Highlights included a presentation on California's first Coast and Ocean Assessment, undertaken by the Ocean Science Trust on behalf of the Ocean Protection Council. Six SAC members contributed to that report. The assessment is available under Tab 7 of the board packet and on the BEACON website.

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	Sand Summit The Sand Summit was held last month at the same venue. Harbor representatives from all three harbors presented, consistent with their presentations to the board today. Approximately 60 stakeholders attended. Presentations were recorded and are being posted to the BEACON website. Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None.
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Item	5A	BEACON Resolution for ASBPA Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2026-2, congratulating the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) for 100 years of the best beach and coastal science and policy (Exhibit I).
Minutes/ Actions:		Executive Director Beyeler presented BEACON Resolution 2026-2, congratulating the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) on its centennial (100th anniversary in 2027). Mr. Beyeler indicated that ASBPA is one of BEACON's most important partners in science and policy and noted that BEACON helped bring ASBPA's national conference back to California for the first time in 17 years, hosting it in Ventura two years ago. BEACON staff sit on ASBPA's board of directors and participate in science, technology, and governance subcommittees. Public Comment: Mark Mosby (Santa Barbara) spoke in support and suggested that future ASBPA presentations include harbor financial impact data from the harbor representatives. Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • Mark Mosby from Santa Barbara spoke in support of the resolution and suggested that future ASBPA presentations include harbor financial impact data from the harbor representatives. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-2 as set forth in the Agenda. Moved by Lopez / Second by Gama. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.

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Item	5B	Board Member Reports Directors are invited to provide reports and updates on items of interest in their County or City.
Minutes/ Actions:		Board Members Comments: • Chair Friedman: Reported that the city's airport climate adaptation plan is moving forward to City Council, addressing flood distribution, runway flood risk mitigation, and environmental protections related to the Goleta Slough. • Member Teran shared updates on the 'Voices of Oxnard Youth' civic engagement initiative. Young participants identified climate change and coastal resilience as top priorities alongside street maintenance and youth mental health. Member Teran noted that disaster preparedness including tsunami risk, was among the youth's concerns, and expressed hope that BEACON's work will meet their expectations. • Vice Chair Gama highlighted ongoing youth involvement in the Hueneme Beach Cleanup program, with over 1,400 participants recorded since August of 2025, many of them young people. Vice Chair Gama noted that youth from Oxnard Middle College have participated consistently for years. • Member Lopez noted participation in a recent Surfrider-organized paddle-out at Refugio State Beach (now Sable Beach) commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Plains pipeline oil spill. Over 100 attendees were present, including many youths.

Item	5C	BEACON Budget Action and Financial Reports Recommended Actions: Approve Budget Modification: Increase Travel \$5,000 Decrease Contingency \$5,000 Adopt an increase to voting member assessments (membership dues) by up to 15% for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to provide an additional \$51,907 in revenue. (Exhibit I) (Requires unanimous approval (10/10 vote)) Upon approval of member assessments, review and approve the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget (Exhibit II) Adopt the Budget Resolution 2026-3 for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Exhibit III)
Minutes/ Actions:		This item was moved forward on the agenda to ensure all ten (10) voting members were present for the budget vote, which requires unanimous approval. Executive Director Beyeler provided a summary of the budget items, noting: Item 5C(i): A minor budget modification for the current fiscal year to increase Travel by \$5,000 and decrease Contingency by \$5,000, to cover expenses from the Science Advisory

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Committee meeting and staff attendance at ASBPA and CSBPA conferences.

Items 5C(ii–iv): The critical items requiring unanimous approval for the adoption of the member assessment (dues) increase, approval of the FY 2026–2027 Budget, and adoption of Budget Resolution 2026-3.

Mr. Beyeler described BEACON as an 'undercapitalized small business' with approximately two personnel years of total staffing, relying heavily on grants and outside agency funds to accomplish program goals. He noted the board had been presented with three-year budget projections to provide context for the decision. Four options were offered: 0% increase, 5% (cost of living), 10%, and 15%.

The 15% increase represents an increase in annual revenue of \$59,494, amounting to a little under \$10K for the counties, approx. \$8K for the larger cities, and approx. \$5,000 for the small cities. The dues are allocated by population formula.

Board Members Comments:

- **Chair Friedman** expressed support for the 15% option, noting the dollar amount is modest relative to the value BEACON provides, particularly in light of the harbor dredging advocacy demonstrated earlier in the meeting.
- **Member Gama** expressed support for the 15% increase, characterizing BEACON's mission as 'ensuring economic and recreational access' of coastal resources.
- **Member Teran** supported the 15% increase and requested continued close coordination with Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and the city's Sustainability Manager. Member Teran also expressed appreciation for BEACON's recent intentional outreach to those communities.
- **Member Halter** supported the 15% increase.
- **Member Hartman** asked whether a 15% increase would be expected again next year.
- **Mr. Beyeler** responded that staff had originally requested a 50% increase in the prior year, with the board opting for a phased approach. Whether to continue at 15% in the following year (year 3) would be evaluated year by year. Member Hartman indicated support.
- **Member LaVere** confirmed support for the 15% increase.
- **Member Smith** confirmed support for the 15% increase.
- **Member Lopez** confirmed support for the 15% increase.
- **Member Mayer** confirmed support for the 15% increase.

ACTIONS:

Item 5C(ii) - Member Assessment Increase of 15% for FY 2026–2027:

Motion to approve Item 5C(ii) as set forth in the Agenda. Moved by Gama / Second by Teran. Unanimously approved with 10/10 vote.

Combined Items 5C(i) -Budget Modification, 5C(iii) – Approval of FY 2627 Budget, and 5C(iv) - Budget Resolution 2026-3:

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	Motion to approve Items 5C(ii), 5C(iii), and 5C(iv) as set forth in the Agenda. Moved by Gama / Second by Teran. Unanimously approved with 10/10 vote. Executive Director Beyeler thanked the Board for their continued commitment to BEACON, acknowledging the financial uncertainty facing member agencies and pledging staff dedication to implementing the strategic plan.
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Item	5D	BEACON Contracts and Agreements Recommended Actions: i. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Gerald Comati/COM3 Consulting to provide Program and Project Management Services to BEACON with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. (Attachment I). ii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Santa Barbara County for Legal Services to BEACON with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 (Attachment II). iii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Ventura County to provide Accounting Services to BEACON with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 (Attachment III). iv. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Jenna Wisniewski to provide specialist science support services, focusing on assisting BEACON Science Advisory Committee (SAC) activities, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027 (Attachment IV). v. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) to provide research and technical support regarding regional sediment management and regional climate adaptation with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 (Attachment V). vi. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Pam Baumgardner to provide Webmaster, Social Media Communication, and Information Management Services to BEACON with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000 (Attachment VI). vii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Dorothy Horn to provide professional data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professional services extending period of performance by 6 months with a revised end date of December 31, 2026, with no change in the amount not to exceed \$22,000 (Attachment VII). viii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Matunuck
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		Research Group LLC for the services of Nathaniel Merrill to assist BEACON staff in developing data and methods to analyze local beach use with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000 (Attachment VIII). ix. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with SCI to assist Beacon in collecting and analyzing beach and shoreline camera data, including Shoreline position and beach geomorphology for one or more beaches using remote video camera. This one-year demonstration project would be for a period of performance from June 1, 2026, to June 1, 2027, for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000 (Attachment IX). x. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute an Agreement, similar to the attached, with an Independent Contractor, to be determined, to provide administrative and grants management services to BEACON in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, upon legal review and approval. (Attachment X);
Minutes/ Actions:		Executive Director Beyeler provided context for the full contractor organizational structure, noting BEACON has never previously had an organizational chart due to limited resources. The Organization Chart is included as Exhibit I. The structure reflects approximately two full-time personnel equivalents across multiple part-time contractors. Counsel McKenzie noted for the record that the Santa Barbara County legal services agreement is not reviewed by BEACON Legal Counsel (from Santa Barbara County) and had last been formally reviewed by Ventura County Counsel's office in 2018. The substantive content of the agreement has not changed apart from date and amounts. Member Teran recused himself from Items 5D(iii) (Ventura County Accounting Services Agreement) and 5D(v) (CSUCI Agreement), citing consulting work with the County of Ventura and school districts and with CSUCI. Member Teran left the Council Chambers for the vote on those two items. Surflife Coastal Intelligence — Brief Presentation (Austin, SCI) Following adoption of 5D(ix), Austin from Surflife Coastal Intelligence (SCI) gave a brief supplemental presentation on the pilot project. Key points: • SCI is a division of Surflife focused on coastal erosion and beach recreation monitoring using camera technology, headquartered in San Diego/Encinitas. • Four pilot cameras will be deployed at two sites: C Street (Ventura) and Carpinteria State Beach. At each site, one existing Surflife camera will be used (providing historical data), and one new camera will be installed. • Cameras provide continuous daily data on shoreline position, erosion rates, flooding, wave climatology, bathymetry, and beach recreation (people counts, surfer counts). No facial recognition is used. • Video is archived for review by city coastal managers, fire, or beach safety personnel.

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	Board Member Comments: • Chair Friedman noted that this data would complement the People's Beach Project led by Dr. Charles Lester and Dr. Kiki Patch, which examines beach access equity and prioritization in the context of sea level rise and shoreline protection policy. Public Comments: • None. ACTIONS: • Items 5D(iii) and 5D(v) Voted Separately (Member Teran recused) Motion to approve Items 5D(iii) and 5D(v) as set forth in Agenda. Moved by Gama / Second by Lopez. Unanimously approved with 8 votes present. • Remaining Items 5D(i, ii, iv, vi, vii, viii, ix, x) combined Motion. Motion to approve Items 5D(i, ii, iv, vi, vii, viii, ix, x) as set forth in Agenda. Moved by Teran / Second by Gama. Unanimously approved with 9 votes present.
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Item	6 Closed Session Executive Director Performance Evaluation. (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1).) Labor Negotiations (Gov. Code § 54957.6(a).) Employee: Executive Director Agency Designated Representatives: Chair Friedman and Counsel McKenzie.
Minutes/ Actions:	Counsel McKenzie read the closed session items into the record: Executive Director Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1)) Conference with Labor Negotiators regarding the Executive Director (Gov. Code § 54957.6(a)) Agency Designated Representatives: Chair Friedman and Counsel McKenzie. Public Comments: • None. The Board adjourned to closed session. Report Out: Upon returning to open session, Counsel McKenzie reported that the Board met in closed session to discuss both items and took no reportable action.

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Item	7	Executive Director's Report and Communications The Executive Director will report on recent activities and achievements of BEACON, upcoming events of interest to the Board of Directors and the public, and general status of BEACON major projects, including the status of recent BEACON presentations on activities and accomplishments to our member agencies. There will be no Board discussion except to ask questions or refer matters to Staff; no action will be taken unless listed on a subsequent agenda.
Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director Beyeler noted that his report had been incorporated into Item 4B (SAC Meeting and Sand Summit updates) and that several documents had been posted to the BEACON website. No further report was given. The next BEACON Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2026. Anticipated agenda items include a presentation, project updates, and budget and financial actions. Board Member Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None.	

The next Board Meeting will be held on July 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM, at the City of Carpinteria City Council Chambers.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.